

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A lending management system comprising:

a client terminal connected to a network; and

a server terminal connected to said network and configured to be connected to an information device;

wherein said client terminal is configured to transmit to the server terminal via the network information related to reservation of the information device;

said server terminal is configured to receive from the client terminal the information related to the reservation, to determine whether the reservation is permitted in accordance with the received information, and to register the reservation and to transmit information to said client terminal to indicate registration of the reservation,

the client terminal comprises an image transmission method designating unit configured to designate, at the time of reservation, server terminal information related to a method of transmission of input image data once the information device is returned, wherein the input image data is an image captured by the information device and input from the information device to the server terminal, and

the server terminal transmits the input image data to a user of the information device based on the method of transmission.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 1, wherein said server terminal comprises:

a user certification unit configured to authenticate a user in accordance with input information; and

a lending permission unit configured to check the input information provided with an access right by said user certification unit and to permit lending of the information device.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 2, wherein said user certification unit is configured to check an identity of the user and a password.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 2, wherein said user certification unit comprises a magnetic card reader configured to read a magnetic card in which an identity of the user is registered.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 2, wherein said user certification unit comprises an integrated circuit card reader configured to read an integrated circuit card in which an identity of the user is registered.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 2, wherein said user certification unit comprises fingerprint input unit configured to receive an input fingerprint of the user.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 1, wherein said server terminal is configured to transmit a lock release signal to activate and deactivate a lock switching unit configured to permit and to prevent operation of the information device.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 1, wherein the image transmission designating unit is configured to transmit the input image data by electronic mail.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 1, wherein the image transmission designating unit is configured to transmit the input image data by a file transfer protocol method.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 1, wherein the image transmission designating unit is configured to transmit the input image data by a file transfer method.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a printing unit configured to print the input image data.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A lending management system comprising:

a client terminal connected to a network; and

a server terminal comprising a web server connected to said network, the server terminal configured to be connected to an information device;

wherein said client terminal is configured to transmit information related to reservation of the information device to said server via said network;

said server terminal is configured to receive the information related to reservation, to determine whether reservation is permitted in accordance with the received information, and

to register the reservation and to transmit information to said client terminal to indicate registration of the reservation,

the client terminal comprises an image transmission method designating unit configured to designate, at the time of reservation, server terminal information related to a method of transmission of input image data once the information device is returned, wherein the input image data is an image captured by the information device and input from the information device to the server terminal, and

the server terminal transmits the input image data to a user of the information device based on the method of transmission.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 13, wherein said server terminal comprises:

a user certification unit configured to authenticate a user in accordance with input information; and

a lending permission unit configured to check the user input information provided with an access right by said user certification unit to permit lending of the information device.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 14, wherein said user certification unit is configured to check an identity of the user.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 14, wherein said user certification unit comprises a magnetic card reader configured to read a magnetic card in which an identity of the user is registered.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 14, wherein said user certification unit comprises an integrated circuit card reader configured to read an integrated circuit card in which an identity of the user is registered.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 14, wherein said user certification unit comprises a fingerprint input unit configured to receive an input fingerprint of the user.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 13, wherein server terminal is configured to transit a lock release signal to activate and deactivate a lock switching unit configured to permit and prevent operation of the information device.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 13, wherein the image transmission designating unit is configured to transmit the input image data by electronic mail.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 13, wherein the image transmission designating unit is configured to transmit the input image data by a file transfer protocol method.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 13, wherein the image transmission designating unit is configured to transmit the input image data by a file transfer method.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 13, further comprising:

a printing unit configured to print the input image data.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 13, wherein said lending management system is configured so as not to transmit the input image data to said client terminal and is configured to store the input image data in said server.

Claims 26 and 27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A lending reservation method for reserving lending of an information device with a reservation over a computer network including a server, comprising:

authenticating a user operating a computer connected to the computer network;

confirming that the reservation is available with respect to said information device;

confirming an identity of the user who registers the reservation;

releasing a lock of said information device; and

designating a method for transmitting an image to the user, the image captured by the information device after the information device is reconnected to the network used in the lending reservation method.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The lending reservation method according to claim 28, further comprising:

transmitting the image across the network in accordance with the image transmission method.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The lending reservation method according to claim 29, wherein the image is transmitted across the network in accordance with the image transmission method by one of electronic mail, a file transfer protocol method, a file transfer method, a printer output and storing the image in the server.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A computer readable recording medium for recording a computer program containing instructions configured to provide a lending reservation method to lend an information device having a lock from a terminal via a network including a server, the lending reservation method comprising:

authenticating a user operating a computer connected to the computer network;
confirming that the reservation is available with respect to said information device;
confirming an identity of the user who registers the reservation;
releasing the lock of said information device; and
designating a method for transmitting an image to the user, the image captured by the information device after the information device is reconnected to the network used in the lending reservation method.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The lending management system according to claim 1, wherein said server terminal is configured to install a WWW server function therein and to permit inspection of the input image from the client terminal.